Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-79. (Cancelled)

Claim 80. (New) A method of evaluating a vascular disease of a patient and treating or preventing the vascular disease with a plurality of stent performs interlaced to form a stent, the method comprising:

identifying a disease process in the pathology of the vascular disease using at least one visual imaging technique;

evaluating the disease process to determine if a treatment is necessary;

if a treatment is determined to be necessary, selecting a first agent to treat or prevent the vascular disease based upon at least one visual image;

coating at least a portion of at least one of the plurality of stent preforms with a therapeutically effective amount of the first agent;

selecting a second agent to treat or prevent the vascular disease based upon at least one visual image;

coating at least a portion of at least one of the plurality of stent preforms with a therapeutically effective amount of the second agent;

interlacing the plurality of stent preforms to form a stent, wherein each of the plurality of stent preforms comprises:

an elongated metallic core including a contact surface and first and second ends;

an outer sheath disposed about the contact surface, the outer sheath including the first and second agents; and

caps diposed on a first end and a second end of the outer sheath, thereby encapsulating the entire core; and

implanting the stent in the patient to treat or prevent the vascular disease.

Claim 81. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein the visual imaging technique is selected from the group consisting of an angiogram, fluoroscopy, computerized tomographic scan (CT scan), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), intravascular MRI, and a combination thereof.

Claim 82. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein identifying further includes lesion temperature determination or genetic determination.

Claim 83. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein the disease process identified is selected from the group consisting of acute myocardial infarction, thrombotic lesions, unstable angina, fibrotic disease, total occlusion of vascular lumens, hyperproliferative vascular disease, vulnerable plaque, diabetic vascular diffused disease, and a combination thereof.

Claim 84. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein the first agent is rapamycin and the second agent is selected from the group consisting of cyclosporine A, imatinib mesylate, and curcumin.

Claim 85. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein the first agent and the second agent act to decrease proliferation of vascular smooth cells.

Claim 86. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein at least one of the plurality of stent preforms has an outer sheath comprising therapeutic tape encapsulating the entire core.

Claim 87. (New) The method according to claim 86, wherein the first agent and the second agent are disposed within the therapeutic tape.

Claim 88. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein the first agent and the second agent are disposed within pores of the outer sheath.

Claim 89. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein the core is formed of shape-memory alloy.

Claim 90. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein the outer sheath is formed of a polymeric material.

Claim 91. (New) The method according to claim 90, wherein the polymeric material is biostable.

Claim 92. (New) The method according to claim 80, further comprising a release mechanism disposed over the outer sheath.

Claim 93. (New) The method according to claim 92, wherein the release mechanism is a bioabsorbable polymer.

Claim 94. (New) The method according to claim 80, wherein the first agent and the second agent are coated on the outer sheath.

Claim 95. (New) The method according to claim 94, wherein a release mechanism is disposed over said first agent and said second agent.